AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a system including a device that synchronizes with one or more synchronization partners, ~~with the result that a delete request for an object stored on the device can possibly result in an inadvertent deletion of corresponding objects from stores of one or more synchronization partners when later synchronizing the device with those synchronization~~ partners, ~~a~~ method for deleting ~~the~~ an object from a store of the device without causing an inadvertent deletion of the one or more corresponding objects ~~on any of~~ from one or more stores of the one or more synchronization partners when synchronizing the device with the one or more synchronization partners, the method comprising:

as a first act, while synchronizing the device with a first synchronization partner, using a filter that excludes an object so that it is not synchronized at the device, and thereby targeting that object for deletion at the device;

as a next act, requesting that the targeted object be deleted from the device;

thereafter, in response to the requested deletion of the targeted object, an act of determining whether other synchronization partners are synchronizing the targeted object; and

as further acts, if it is determined that

either the targeted object is not being synchronized with the any of the other synchronization partners, or

that none of the other synchronization partners object to the requested deletion,

then proceeding with deletion of the targeted object from the device, but otherwise,

not deleting the targeted object from the device even though it is no longer synchronized with the first synchronization partner,

thereby preventing any inadvertent deletion from other synchronization partners.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claims 1 or 32, wherein the act of synchronizing the device further comprises an act of the user specifying parameters of the filter.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claims 1 or 32, wherein the act of requesting that the targeted object be deleted further comprises an act of sending a soft delete request from a first device sync module associated with the first synchronization partner to a sync manager of the device.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 4, further comprising an act of updating tracking data of the first device sync module such that the first device sync module does not subsequently synchronize the targeted object with the first synchronization partner even if the targeted object is not deleted from the device.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 4, further comprising an act of the sync manager identifying other device sync modules associated with other synchronization partners that synchronize with the device by checking a sync client registration table maintained at the device.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 6, further comprising an act of updating tracking data associated with the other synchronization partners such that the targeted object is not subsequently synchronized with the other synchronization partners even if the object is not deleted at the device.

9. (Original) A method as defined in claim 6, further comprising an act of the other device sync modules notifying the other synchronization partners that the object was soft deleted.

10. (Currently Amended) In a system including a device having a store, wherein the store is synchronized with one or more stores of one or more synchronization partners, ~~with the result that a delete request for an object in the store can possibly result in an inadvertent deletion of corresponding objects on the one or more synchronization partners when later synchronizing the device with those partners,~~ a method for deleting an object from the store of the device without causing an inadvertent deletion of one or more corresponding objects ~~on any of~~ from the one or more stores of the one or more synchronization partners when synchronizing the device with the one or more synchronization partners, the method comprising the following acts:

while synchronizing the device store with a first synchronization partner, using a filter that excludes an object so that it is not synchronized at the device, and thereby targeting that object for deletion at the device store;

sending a soft delete request for the targeted object from a first sync module at the device to a sync manager of the device, wherein the first device sync module is associated with the first synchronization partner;

thereafter, in response to the soft delete request for the targeted object, the sync manager determining whether any other synchronization partner is synchronizing the targeted object; and

deleting the targeted object from the device store only if no other synchronization partner is synchronizing the object.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claims 10 or 33, further comprising an act of receiving the soft delete request from the first synchronization partner, wherein the soft delete request informs the first device sync module that the object is excluded by the filter and may be deleted from the store of the device.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claims 10 or 33, wherein sending the soft delete request from the first sync module at the device further comprises an act of the first sync module updating tracking data that is associated with the first synchronization partner such that the targeted object is no longer synchronized by the first synchronization partner.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claims 10 or 33, wherein the other synchronization partners that synchronize the store of the device are registered in a table of the sync manager.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claims 10 or 33, further comprising an act of not synchronizing the targeted object in future synchronizations between the device and the first synchronization partner.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claims 10 or 33, wherein the act of deleting the targeted object from the device store further comprises an act of other device sync modules updating their tracking data such that the deletion of the targeted object at the device store is not propagated to the corresponding objects of any other synchronization partners corresponding to the other device sync modules.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claims 10 or 33, further comprising:

an act of the first device sync module tracking that the targeted object was soft deleted; and

an act of ensuring that the other synchronization partners do not delete corresponding objects from stores of the synchronization partners.

17. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claims 10 or 33, further comprising:

an act of allowing the other synchronization partners to delete the targeted object from their stores; and

an act of preventing the targeted object from being deleted from a store of the first synchronization partner.

18. (Currently Amended) In a system including a device having a device store, wherein the device store is synchronized with one or more stores of one or more synchronization partners, ~~with the result that a delete request for a data object of the device store can possibly result in an inadvertent deletion of corresponding data objects at one or more of the stores of the synchronization partners when later synchronizing the device with those partners,~~ a method for automatically deleting a data object from the store of the device without causing an inadvertent deletion of one or more corresponding data objects from the one or more stores of ~~any of the other~~ one or more synchronization partners during ~~future synchronizations~~ a subsequent synchronization, the method comprising steps for:

as a result of synchronizing the device store with a store of a first synchronization partner, generating a soft delete request for a targeted data object at the device store;

querying all other synchronization partners of the device to determine if the targeted data object is synchronized by any of the other synchronization partners;

granting the soft delete request only if

no other synchronization partner is synchronizing the targeted data object, and

no other synchronization partner denies permission for the soft delete request, and otherwise,

denying the soft delete request.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claims 18 or 34, wherein the step for synchronizing the device store further comprises:

an act of detecting that the data object does not meet parameters of a filter used during the synchronization of the device store with the store of the first synchronization partner;

an act of updating tracking data of a first device sync module for the data object such that the object is no longer synchronized, the first device sync module associated with the first synchronization partner; and

an act of the first device sync module sending the soft delete request to a sync manager.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 19, wherein the step for querying all other synchronization partners further comprises:

an act of a sync manager, which receives the soft delete request, determining if other device sync modules track the targeted data object;

if so, an act of determining whether the other device sync modules object to the deletion of the targeted data object;

an act of not deleting the targeted data object when one of the other device sync modules objects to the deletion of the targeted data object; and

an act of updating tracking data of the other device sync modules that do not object to the deletion of the targeted data object such that the targeted data object is no longer synchronized through the other device sync modules.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claims 18 or 33, further comprising a step for ensuring that the targeted data object is not deleted from any of the synchronization partners.

22. (Original) A method as defined in claim 21, further comprising an act of the other device sync modules notifying their corresponding synchronization partner that a soft delete was performed on the data object.

23 – 31 (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) In a system including a device that synchronizes with one or more synchronization partners, ~~with the result that a delete request for an object stored on the device can possibly result in an inadvertent deletion of corresponding objects from stores of one or more synchronization partners when later synchronizing the device with those synchronization partners,~~ a computer program product comprised of a computer-readable medium for storing computer-executable instructions for implementing a method for deleting ~~the~~ an object from a store of the device without causing an inadvertent deletion of ~~the~~ one or more corresponding objects ~~on any of~~ from one or more stores of the one or more synchronization partners when synchronizing the device with the one or more synchronization partners, and wherein the method is comprised of:

as a first act, while synchronizing the device with a first synchronization partner, using a filter that excludes an object so that it is not synchronized at the device, and thereby targeting that object for deletion at the device;

as a next act, requesting that the targeted object be deleted from the device;

thereafter, in response to the requested deletion of the targeted object, an act of determining whether other synchronization partners are synchronizing the targeted object; and

as further acts, if it is determined that

either the targeted object is not being synchronized with the any of the other synchronization partners, or

that none of the other synchronization partners object to the requested deletion,

then proceeding with deletion of the targeted object from the device, but otherwise,

not deleting the targeted object from the device even though it is no longer synchronized with the first synchronization partner,

thereby preventing any inadvertent deletion from other synchronization partners.

33. (Currently Amended) In a system including a device having a store, wherein the store is synchronized with one or more stores of one or more synchronization partners, ~~with the result that a delete request for an object in the store can possibly result in an inadvertent deletion of corresponding objects on the one or more synchronization partners when later synchronizing the device with those partners,~~ a computer program product comprised of a computer-readable medium for storing computer-executable instructions for implementing a method for deleting an object from the store of the device without causing an inadvertent deletion of one or more corresponding objects ~~on any of~~ from the one or more stores of the one or more synchronization partners when synchronizing the devices with the one or more synchronization partners, and wherein the method is comprised of the following acts:

while synchronizing the device store with a first synchronization partner, using a filter that excludes an object so that it is not synchronized at the device, and thereby targeting that object for deletion at the device store;

sending a soft delete request for the targeted object from a first sync module at the device to a sync manager of the device, wherein the first device sync module is associated with the first synchronization partner;

thereafter, in response to the soft delete request for the targeted object, the sync manager determining whether any other synchronization partner is synchronizing the targeted object; and

deleting the targeted object from the device store only if no other synchronization partner is synchronizing the object.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~In~~ For a system including a device having a device store, wherein the device store is synchronized with one or more stores of one or more synchronization partners, ~~with the result that a delete request for a data object of the device store can possibly result in an inadvertent deletion of corresponding data objects at one or more of the stores of the synchronization partners when later synchronizing the device with these partners,~~ a computer program product comprising one or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions that implement a method ~~for~~ of automatically deleting a data object from the store of the device without causing an inadvertent deletion of one or more corresponding data objects from the one or more stores of ~~any of the other~~ one or more synchronization partners during ~~future synchronizations~~ a subsequent synchronization, the method comprising steps for:

as a result of synchronizing the device store with a store of a first synchronization partner, generating a soft delete request for a targeted data object at the device store;

querying all other synchronization partners of the device to determine if the targeted data object is synchronized by any of the other synchronization partners;

granting the soft delete request only if

no other synchronization partner is synchronizing the targeted data object, and

no other synchronization partner denies permission for the soft delete request, and otherwise,

denying the soft delete request.